



AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (withdrawn):

A bat comprising:

a bat having a hitting portion and a handle portion;

a tubular biaxial braided overlay member laminated to the handle portion of said bat; said overlay member comprising a hybrid of carbon fibers and aramid fibers; said laminated overlay member having shock absorbing properties.

Claim 2 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein the lamination of said overlay member to said handle portion of said bat comprises the steps of:

applying a thermosetting material to said overlay and said handle portion so that said overlay is substantially saturated with said thermosetting material;

wrapping at least a portion of the bat with a suitable material to compress the overlay to the bat handle; and

heating the thermosetting material under appropriate conditions to accomplish at least partial setting of the thermosetting material.

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Claim 3 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bat is a baseball bat.

Claim 4 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bat is a softball bat.

Claim 5 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein said laminated overlay member reduces handle vibration by approximately sixty percent when compared with a bat without any grip.

Claim 6 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein the overlay member is formed with a substantially equal number of carbon fibers and aramid fibers.

Claim 7 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein the overlay member is formed with alternating strands of carbon fibers and aramid fibers.

Claim 8 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein the overlay member is formed with a plurality of strands of carbon fiber alternating with a plurality of strands of aramid fibers.

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Claim 9 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 1 wherein the overlay member is laminated with a thermosetting resin matrix to the handle portion of the bat.

Claim 10 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 9 wherein said thermosetting resin matrix is an epoxy system.

Claim 11 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 9 wherein said thermosetting resin matrix is an epoxy-amine system.

Claim 12 (currently amended):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat comprising:

slipping a tubular biaxial overlay member comprising a hybrid of carbon fibers and aramid fibers onto a handle portion of a bat;

applying a thermosetting material to said overlay and said handle portion so that said overlay is substantially saturated with said thermosetting material;

wrapping at least a portion of the bat with a suitable wrapping material to ~~compress the overlay to the bat handle~~ bond said overlay member to said bat handle upon curing; and

heating the thermosetting material under appropriate conditions to accomplish at least partial setting of the thermosetting material.

Claim 13 (original):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 12 wherein said overlay is compressed to said bat handle under a pressure of at least approximately 150 pounds per square inch.

Claim 14 (original):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 12 where said suitable wrapping material comprises cellophane shrink wrap.

Claim 15 (original):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 14 wherein said overlay is compressed to said bat handle under a pressure of at least approximately 150 pounds per square inch.

Claim 16 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein said laminated overlay member reduces handle vibration by approximately sixty percent when compared with a bat without any grip.

Claim 17 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein said overlay is compressed to said bat handle under a pressure of at least approximately 150 pounds per square inch.

Claim 18 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein said suitable wrapping material comprises cellophane shrink wrap.

Claim 19 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 18 wherein said overlay is compressed to said bat handle under a pressure of at least approximately 150 pounds per square inch.

Claim 20 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 19 wherein said laminated overlay member reduces handle vibration by approximately sixty percent when compared with a bat without any grip.

Claim 21 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein the overlay member is formed with a substantially equal number of carbon fibers and aramid fibers.

Claim 22 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein the overlay member is formed with alternating strands of carbon fibers and aramid fibers.

Claim 23 (withdrawn):

A bat as set forth in claim 2 wherein the overlay member is formed with a plurality of strands of carbon fiber alternating with a plurality of strands of aramid fibers.

Claim 24 (new):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 12 wherein said overlay member becomes an integral part of said handle portion of said bat upon curing.

Claim 25 (new):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 24 wherein said overlay is compressed to said bat handle under a pressure of at least approximately 150 pounds per square inch.

Claim 26 (new)

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 24 wherein said suitable wrapping material comprises cellophane shrink wrap.

Claim 27 (new):

A method of manufacturing a shock absorbing bat as set forth in claim 25 wherein said suitable wrapping material comprises cellophane shrink wrap.